

# United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMASJONEY FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 140 Alexandria, Yirgina 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO	). FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/972,310	10/04/2001	Gary Thomas Axberg	SJO920010108US1	4106	
46917	46917 7590 04/20/2006		EXAM	EXAMINER	
	RAYNES & VICTOR,	CHOUDHUR	CHOUDHURY, AZIZUL Q		
ATTN: IBM37 315 SOUTH BEVERLY DRIVE, SUITE 210			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212			2145		
		·	DATE MAILED: 04/20/200	DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)			
	09/972,310	AXBERG ET AL.			
Office Action Summary	Examiner .	Art Unit			
	Azizul Choudhury	2145			
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim vill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONEI	Lely filed the mailing date of this communication. (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status					
Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 Fe</u> This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) ☐ This     Since this application is in condition for allowar closed in accordance with the practice under E	action is non-final.  nce except for formal matters, pro				
Disposition of Claims	•				
4) ⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdraw 5) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are rejected. 7) □ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) □ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or	vn from consideration.				
Application Papers					
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine 10) The drawing(s) filed on <u>04 October 2001</u> is/are:  Applicant may not request that any objection to the or Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction of the order of the orde	a) $\boxtimes$ accepted or b) $\square$ objected drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See ion is required if the drawing(s) is obj	e 37 CFR 1.85(a). ected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119	•				
<ul> <li>12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</li> <li>a) All b) Some * c) None of:</li> <li>1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</li> <li>2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.</li> <li>3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</li> <li>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</li> </ul>					
Attachment(s)  1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:				

### **Detailed Action**

This office action is in response to the correspondence received on February 6, 2006.

# Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: The sentences with the phrase "the absence of that component from the;" are incomplete. It is believed that the phrase should read, "the absence of that component from the topology;" Appropriate correction is required.

# Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crockett et al (US Pat No: 5,504,861), hereafter referred to as Crockett.

1. With regards to claim 1, Crockett teaches a system for managing network components, including storage devices and digital data processors, comprising: a first component that maintains a first representation of a topology of the storage devices and digital data processors in the network and that generates an event notification indicative of a change to the topology with respect to the network; a

Art Unit: 2145

second component in communication with the first component the second component maintaining a second representation of the topology and responding to the event notification by accessing the first representation; determining a discrepancy between the event notification and an attribute of any of the first and second representations; selectively disregarding the event notification or recovering the second representation from one or more attributes of the first representation in response to determining the discrepancy (Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing to provide for data recovery. The design features two hosts (Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Plus, means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). While Crockett does not literally disclose the topology as being the data being stored. Crockett does teach that data recovery is suitable for disaster recovery (column 2, line 63 – column 3, line 39, Crockett). Official notice is hereby taken for it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, to have the disaster recovery information of Crockett's design be topology information since, topology information is a form of disaster recovery information).

2. With regards to claim 2, Crockett teaches the system wherein the network further includes a plurality of hosts, each coupled with one or more storage devices over

Application/Control Number: 09/972,310

Art Unit: 2145

the network; one or more agents each associated with one or more of the hosts, each agent generating a scan identifying attributes of any of (i) the host with which it is associated, (ii) one or more of the storage units to which that host is coupled, and (iii) a relationship therebetween; and wherein the agents are in communication coupling with the first component, wherein the agents transmit the can to the first component (Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing to provide for data recovery. The design features two hosts (Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett). In addition, since data is checked at each host, it is inherent that agents/daemons are present within the design).

Page 4

3. With regards to claim 3, Crockett teaches the system wherein the agents transmit the scans to the first component asynchronously with respect to one another (In Crockett's design, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett). In addition, since data is checked at each host, it is inherent that agents/daemons are present within the design).

4. With regards to claim 4, Crockett teaches the system wherein the first representation comprises scans received from the one or more agents (In Crockett's design, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett). In addition, since data is checked at each host, it is inherent that agents/daemons are present within the design).

Page 5

- 5. With regards to claim 5, Crockett teaches the system wherein the hosts comprise digital data processors and the agents execute on the host digital data processors (Crockett's design features processors (column 3, lines 15-39, Crockett). Plus, since data is checked at each host, it is inherent that agents/daemons are present within the design).
- 6. With regards to claim 6, Crockett teaches the system wherein the network comprises a first network, further comprising a manager digital data processor that is coupled to the host digital data processors by via a second network, wherein the first and second components execute in connection with the manager digital data processor (Crockett's design features processors (column 3, lines 15-39, Crockett). The two hosts of Crockett's design are connected (Figure 4, element 408, Crockett)).

7. With regards to claims 7 and 11, Crockett teaches the system further comprising functionality that recovers the second representation by performing at least one of the following operations: i) clearing the second representation and rebuilding that representation from attributes of the first representation; ii) comparing the first and second representations in whole or in part, and copying from the first representation to the second representation attributes missing from the latter, while any of deleting or marking as missing attributes in the second representation indicative of components present in the second representation but not in the first representation; and iii) copying from the first representation to the second representation one or more attributes indicative of any of (a) a component or relationships represented by an attribute in connection with which the discrepancy occurred, and (b) a component or relationship in a region a component or relationships represented by an attribute in connection with which the discrepancy occurred (Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing to provide for data recovery. The design features two hosts (Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Plus, means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 - column 11, line 37, Crockett). While Crockett does not

Art Unit: 2145

literally disclose the topology as being the data being stored, Crockett does teach that data recovery is suitable for disaster recovery (column 2, line 63 – column 3, line 39, Crockett). Official notice is hereby taken for it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, to have the disaster recovery information of Crockett's design be topology information since, topology information is a form of disaster recovery information).

Page 7

8. With regards to claim 8, Crockett teaches a system for managing a network of components, including storage devices and digital data processors, comprising: a first component that maintains a first representation of a topology of the storage devices and digital data processors in the network and that generates an event notification indicative of a change to the topology with respect to the network; a second component in communication with the first component, the second component maintaining a second representation of the network and responding to the event notification by: accessing the first representation; disregarding the event notification in response to determining at least one of: i) the event notification is indicative of addition of a new component to the network and an attribute of the first representation is indicative of absence of that component; ii) the event notification is indicative of addition of a relationship between components of the topology and an attribute of the first representation is indicative of absence of that relationship; iii) the event notification is indicative of addition of a relationship between components of the topology and an attribute of the second representation is indicative of the absence from the topology of one of the components to that relationship; iv) the event notification is indicative of a missing component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicative of the absence of that component from the topology; v) the event notification is indicative of a missing component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicates representation of that component in the second representation, but the absence of that component from the topology; vi) the event notification is indicative of a missing relationship between components of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicative of absence of that relationship in the second representation; or vii) the event notification is indicative of a missing relationship in the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicates inclusion of that relationship in the second representation, but the absence of that component from the topology (Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing to provide for data recovery. The design features two hosts (Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Plus, means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 - column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 - column 11, line 37, Crockett). While Crockett does not literally disclose the topology as

Art Unit: 2145

being the data being stored, Crockett does teach that data recovery is suitable for disaster recovery (column 2, line 63 – column 3, line 39, Crockett). Official notice is hereby taken for it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, to have the disaster recovery information of Crockett's design be topology information since, topology information is a form of disaster recovery information).

9. With regards to claim 9, Crockett teaches a system for managing a network of components, including storage devices and digital data processors, comprising: a first component that maintains a first representation of a topology of the storage devices and digital data processors in the network and that generates an event notification indicative of a change to the topology with respect to the network; a second component in communication with the first component, the second element maintaining a second representation of the topology and responding to the event notification by accessing the first representation; determining a discrepancy between the event notification and an attribute of any of the first and second representations; and selectively recovering the second representation from one or more attributes of the first representation in response to the determining at least one of: i) the event notification is indicative of addition of a new component to the topology and an attribute of the first representation is indicative of the presence of that component; ii) the event notification is indicative of addition of a relationship between components of the topology and an attribute

Art Unit: 2145

of the second representation is indicative of the presence of that relationship; iii) the event notification is indicative of modification of an attribute of a component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation is indicative of the absence from the topology of that component; or iv) the event notification is indicative of modification of an attribute of a component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicative of inclusion of that component in the second representation but its absence from the topology (Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing to provide for data recovery. The design features two hosts (Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Plus, means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 - column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 - column 11, line 37, Crockett). While Crockett does not literally disclose the topology as being the data being stored, Crockett does teach that data recovery is suitable for disaster recovery (column 2, line 63 - column 3, line 39, Crockett). Official notice is hereby taken for it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, to have the disaster recovery information of Crockett's design be topology information since, topology information is a form of disaster recovery information).

10. With regards to claim 10, Crockett teaches a method of managing a network of components, including storage devices and digital data processors, comprising: maintaining a first representation of a topology of the storage devices and digital data processors in the network and generating event notification indicative of a change to the topology with respect to the network; maintaining a second representation of the topology and responding to the event notification by: accessing the first representation; determining a discrepancy between the event notification and an attribute of any of the first and second representations; and selectively disregarding the event notification or recovering the second representation from one or more attributes of the first representation in response to determining the discrepancy (Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing to provide for data recovery. The design features two hosts (Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Plus, means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 - column 11, line 37, Crockett). While Crockett does not literally disclose the topology as being the data being stored, Crockett does teach that data recovery is suitable for disaster recovery (column 2, line 63 – column 3, line 39, Crockett). Official notice is hereby taken for it

Art Unit: 2145

would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, to have the disaster recovery information of Crockett's design be topology information since, topology information is a form of disaster recovery information).

- 11. With regards to claim 12, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in selectively disregarding the event notification comprises determining an event notification indicative of addition of a new component to the topology and an attribute of the first representation indicative of absence of the new component (Means are present in Crockett's design by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 column 11, line 37, Crockett)).
- 12. With regards to claim 13, Crockett teaches the method further comprising:

  determining an event notification indicative of addition of a new component to the topology and an attribute of the first representation indicative of absence of the new component; and determining whether the new component is in the second representation in response to determining that the new component is absent from the first representation; and; updating the second representation to indicate the component's status is suspect in response to determining that the new component is in the second representation Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing to provide for data recovery. The design features two hosts

Application/Control Number: 09/972,310

Art Unit: 2145

(Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Plus, means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett)).

Page 13

- 13. With regards to claim 14, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in performing the recovery operation on the second representation comprises determining an event notification indicative of addition of a new component to the topology and an attribute of the first representation indicative of the presence of the new component (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 column 11, line 37, Crockett)).
- 14. With regards to claim 15, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in selectively disregarding the event notification comprises determining an event notification indicative of addition of a relationship

Art Unit: 2145

between components of the topology and an attribute of the first representation indicative of absence of the relationship (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett). In addition, since means are present by which to make notifications, official notice is hereby taken for it is obvious to one skilled in the art to disregard a notification).

15. With regards to claim 16, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in performing the recovery operation on the second representations comprises determining an event notification indicative of addition of a relationship between components of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicative of the presence of that relationship (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett)).

Art Unit: 2145

- 16. With regards to claim17, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in selectively disregarding the event notification comprises determining an event notification indicative of addition of a relationship between components of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicative of the absence from the topology of one of the components to that relationship (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 column 11, line 37, Crockett)).
- 17. With regards to claim 18, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in performing the recovery operation on the second representations comprises determining an event notification indicative of modification of an attribute of a component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicative of the absence from the topology of that component (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 column 11, line 37, Crockett)).

Application/Control Number: 09/972,310

Page 16

Art Unit: 2145

- 18. With regards to claim 19, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in performing the recovery operation on the second representation comprises determining an event notification indicative of modification of an attribute of a component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicating presence of representation of that component in the second representation but its absence from the topology (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett).
  Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 column 11, line 37, Crockett).
- 19. With regards to claim 20, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in selectively disregarding the event notification comprises determining an event notification indicative of a missing component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation the absence of that component from the topology (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column

Art Unit: 2145

9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett)).

- 20. With regards to claim 21, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in selectively disregarding the event notification comprises determining an event notification indicative of a missing component of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicates inclusion of that component in the second representation, but the absence of that component from the topology (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 column 11, line 37, Crockett)).
- 21. With regards to claim 22, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in selectively disregarding the event notification comprises determining an event notification indicative of a missing relationship between components of the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicative of absence of that relationship in the second representation (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check

Art Unit: 2145

and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett)).

22. With regards to claim 23, Crockett teaches the method wherein determining the discrepancy that results in selectively disregarding the event notification comprises determining an event notification indicative of a missing relationship in the topology and an attribute of the second representation indicates inclusion of that relationship in the second representation, but the absence of that component from the topology (Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). Plus, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett)).

#### Response to Remarks

The amendment received on February 6, 2006 has been carefully examined but is not deemed fully persuasive. In lieu of the claim amendments, the 102-type rejection has been changed to a 103-type rejection. The following is the examiner's response to the main points of contention addressed within the remarks portion of the amendment.

The first point of contention involves the newly amended content of topology information being maintained within a first and second device. Crockett teaches a design allowing for data shadowing providing for data recovery. The design features

two hosts (Figure 4, elements 401 and 411, Crockett). The two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). While Crockett does not literally disclose the topology as being the data being stored, Crockett does teach that data recovery is suitable for disaster recovery (column 2, line 63 – column 3, line 39, Crockett). Official notice is hereby taken for it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, to have the disaster recovery information of Crockett's design be topology information since, topology information is a form of disaster recovery information.

Another point of contention involves the comparison of the two copies of the topologies to detect discrepancies. In Crockett's design, the two hosts are updated against one another so that both feature full recovery capabilities (column 2, lines 58-62, Crockett). Means for detection of errors (events) are present and are capable of triggering synchronization between the primary and secondary hosts (column 7, lines 34-44, Crockett). In addition, means are present by which to check and ensure (scan) that the data being copied are correct (column 9, line 52 – column 10, line 9 and column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 37, Crockett).

An additional point of contention involves the prior art's relevance. The applicant's representative indicates that the Crockett prior art is not in the same field of endeavor as the claimed invention. The examiner disagrees, both the prior art and the claimed invention deal with maintaining copies of data and comparing the copies for discrepancies.

Art Unit: 2145

#### Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number: 09/972,310

Art Unit: 2145

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AC

PERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Page 21